

Remarks

Claims 4-7 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claim 4.

Claims 6 and 7 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as directed to a non-elected invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite that the method is for manufacturing a printable label laminate without a release layer and that the adhesive areas are formed directly on a surface of an intended label material layer. The specification supports these amendments at paragraph 0006-0008 and 0011-0012 of the application as published.

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent publication 2002/0022102 to Kiyohara et al. in view of U.S. patent publication 2001/0030020 to Nandy et al., U.S. patent 5,700,536 to Steidinger, GB 1,420,743 to Ghavt and EP 0 353 972 to Takemoto et al.

The combination of Kiyohara et al., Nandy et al., Steidinger, Ghavt and Takemoto et al. does not suggest the invention recited in claims 4 and 5 since, among other things, the combination does not suggest a method for manufacturing a printable label laminate without a release layer. The combination also does not suggest the adhesive areas formed directly on a surface of an intended label material layer.

Furthermore, the cited references do not suggest a method for manufacturing a printable

label laminate including two label material layers that are attached together and are releasable from each other without a release layer. The two label material layers may be used as a printing layer, a release layer and a layer where three-dimensional adhesive areas are directly formed.

The Examiner now cited Takemoto et al. as suggesting adhesive dots. However, Takemoto et al. suggests adhesive deposits that are not for attaching together two material layers. Rather, the adhesive deposits suggested by Takemoto et al. are for adhering tape or bandages to the skin. Along these lines, the adhesive regions may act as a drug delivery system. Takemoto et al. does not include any suggestion that the adhesive deposits are formed on material layers to permit the material layers to be joined together without a release layer. Adhesive regions for applying a bandage to skin do not suggest adhesive dots for joining together two material layers so that back sides of the label material layers can be printed and the label material layers can be released from each other and attached to another surface.

As previously noted, Kiyohara et al. suggests adhesive layers that appear to be a continuous region of adhesive. Kiyohara et al. identifies each region 13 as a layer of adhesive. Therefore, Kiyohara et al. is not silent about the pattern of the adhesive. A layer is not a dot or any other pattern. A layer is just that-a layer. Similarly, Kiyohara et al. describes regions 15 as strip layers. There is nothing in Kiyohara et al. to suggest that strip layers are anything but continuous regions of label base material. The Examiner is relying on Kiyohara et al. as teaching things that it does not teach.

The Examiner only cites Nandy et al. as suggesting a certain label material layer.

Steidinger only suggests screen printing. Ghavt suggests a structure that requires a release layer. The claimed invention does not require a release layer, as recited in the claims. None of the cited references suggests adhesive areas that each includes a plurality of three-dimensional dots or the advantages that such a structure provides, including not requiring a release layer or release agent.

The cited references do suggest adhesive areas each including a group of three-dimensional adhesive dots. Additionally, the combination does not suggest that an area of the adhesive dots that contacts the material layer on which the adhesive dots are formed is larger than an area of the dots that contacts the non-adhesive areas on the other material layer to which the dots are attached. The structure of the adhesive dots provides a label laminate that can be manufactured without a release layer. This is possible due to the different sized contact areas of the dots on the layer on which they are formed and the layer to which they are attached.

In view of the above, the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not suggest patentable features of the claimed invention. Therefore, the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not make the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited references and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application and issuance of the notice of allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants respectfully urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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